

CASE: 1295

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

20 April 1975

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: CLIFFORD W. FIESZEL 1295-0-01 AND HOWARD M. SMITH 1295-0-02.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

10 August 1993

ON 21 JULY 1991, A JOINT U.S./VIETNAMESE INVESTIGATION/RECOVERY TEAM (IRT) AT THE MR-4 MUSEUM IN VINH CITY, QUANG BINH PROVINCE, EXAMINED A .38 CALIBER SMITH AND WESSON PISTOL WITH A SERIAL NUMBER K-599062, WHICH CORRELATES TO REFNO 1295-0-02. THE PISTOL WAS RUSTED, BUT IN GOOD MECHANICAL CONDITION. THERE WAS NO DOCUMENTATION FOR THE PISTOL. (REF 4)

9 September 1993

DURING THE 10TH JFA, THE JOINT TEAM WAS ASSISTING A RECOVERY TEAM IN THE EVALUATION OF A REPORTED BURIAL SITE BELIEVED TO BE ASSOCIATED TO ANOTHER CASE. DURING THIS EVALUATION, THE TEAM OBTAINED INFORMATION SUGGESTING THE BURIAL SITE HAD A POSSIBLE ASSOCIATION TO CASE 1295. A WITNESS WAS INTERVIEWED WHO ALLEGED TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE INCIDENT RELATED TO THE SITE. THE RECOVERY TEAM EXCAVATED THE SITE AND FOUND NO REMAINS. (REF 5)

6 October 1993

ON 24 AUG 93, IE1 TRAVELLED TO DONG SON WARD, DONG HOI TOWN, QUANG BINH PROVINCE TO INVESTIGATE CASE 1295. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED TWO WITNESSES FOR THIS CASE. THE FIRST TOLD OF THE SEP 68 SHOOTDOWN OF A U.S. JET AIRCRAFT AND THE EJECTION OF BOTH CREWMEN, ONE OF WHOM WAS DEAD UPON LANDING. THE WITNESS COULD NOT FURNISH INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBLE BURIAL OF THIS CREWMAN. THE OTHER CREWMAN SUBSEQUENTLY DIED DUE TO INJURIES AND THE WITNESS BURIED HIS REMAINS. THE SECOND WITNESS REPORTED ON THE SHOOTDOWN OF THE AIRCRAFT BUT WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH INFORMATION REGARDING THE BURIAL. THE TEAM TRAVELLED TO THE ALLEGED BURIAL SITE REPORTED BY THE FIRST WITNESS. THIS SITE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY EXCAVATED (10TH JFA). THE TEAM TRAVELLED TO THE LAST KNOWN INCIDENT LOCATION. NO EVIDENCE OF A CRASH SITE WAS FOUND. LOCAL RESIDENTS WERE QUESTIONED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. (REF 6)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 8 NOVEMBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1296-1-01 (ACCNO 6199) Status: (K) REMAINS RECOVERED
Name: ERWIN, DONALD EDWARD Date Status assigned: 1 Feb 1990

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	NAVY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	B -
Grade	05	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	RUDDY
SSAN		Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	
Serial No	DATA	Height	73 in /1.85 mtrs	Weapon No	
Birth date		Weight	180 lb / 81.5 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	INDIANA	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

	INCIDENT LOCATION (0)	LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)
Site Type:	CRASH SITE	SECONDARY SITE
UTM:	48QWF680970	48QWF668971
Lat/Long:	185757N / 1053846E	185800N / 1053805E
Country:	OVER WATER - VN	
Military Region:	\$	
Mission Province:	NGHE AN	
(formerly):		
Mission District:	DIEN CHAU	
Mission Date:	2 Oct 1968	
Mission Category:	3	
Local Analysis:	None.	Remote area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Remains Repatriated: YES
Folders Passed: Aug 87, Feb 86
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: DISCREPANCY
Survivability: (1) Out of the aircraft at the time of the crash

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type:	A4E	Serial:	151126
Crash Type:	Enemy action	Engine Type:	J52
Call Sign:	MAGIC STONE 411	1 Serial:	660843
Year:	\$	2 Serial:	

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

= Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

CASE: 1296

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

6 April 1976

ON 2 OCTOBER 1968 CDR DONALD E. ERWIN, PILOT, WAS FLYING AN A4E AIRCRAFT, (#151126, CALL SIGN MAGIC STONE 411), AS ONE OF A FLIGHT OF TWO A4E'S ON AN ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION OVER NORTH VIETNAM. AFTER COMPLETING THEIR MISSION THEY PROCEEDED TO LOOK FOR TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY. DURING THIS TIME CDR ERWIN'S AIRCRAFT RECEIVED A DIRECT HIT FROM ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FIRE. WHILE HEADING FOR THE COAST FUEL WAS SEEN STREAMING FROM THE AIRCRAFT AND FIRE WAS VISIBLE ON THE UNDERSIDE. JUST AFTER CROSSING THE COAST LINE THE FIRE BECAME WORSE AND CDR ERWIN EJECTED.

THE EJECTION WAS GOOD AND HE WAS OBSERVED ALIVE IN HIS CHUTE. CDR ERWIN ENTERED THE WATER IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES WF 668 971. THE PARACHUTE WAS SEEN ON TWO SUCCESSIVE PASSES BUT THE PILOT WAS NOT OBSERVED, THE CHUTE SUBSEQUENTLY SANK. NO VISUAL SIGNALS OR RADIO TRANSMISSIONS WERE EVER RECEIVED FROM CDR ERWIN. AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH WAS CONDUCTED BUT ONLY THE PILOT'S HELMET WAS SEEN. ALL EFFORTS TO LOCATE CDR ERWIN PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL. (REF 1)

AN OVERWATER/AT-SEA CASUALTY RESOLUTION OPERATION WAS CONDUCTED DURING THE PERIOD OF JULY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1973 TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY/DESIRABILITY OF EXPANDING SUCH OPERATIONS TO BE USED IN CASES SUCH AS THIS. BASED ON THE COMBINED FACTORS OF COST AND LACK OF ANY POSITIVE RESULTS WHATSOEVER, THE AT-SEA OPERATIONS WERE TERMINATED. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. CDR ERWIN IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, REMAINS NONRECOVERABLE.

=== REFERENCES ===

6 April 1976

REFERENCES: <1> RPT, JCRC-CDD-CR, 16 JUL 74. <2> MSG, CDRPERSCOM ALEXANDRIA VA//TAPC-PED-ASGRO// 011740Z FEB 90. <3> CDR JTFFA/J2 010702Z NOV 93.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

28 February 1986

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER ON DONALD E. ERWIN WAS PASSED DURING THE 27-28 FEB 86 JCRC/VNOSMIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

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=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO DONALD E. ERWIN WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4 AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

19 September 1990

CASE DISCUSSED WITH THE VMOSMP DURING THE 10-12 JUL 90 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

13 April 1976

CHG INCIDENT LOCATION FM WF 526 822 TO WF 680 970 AND ENTER SECONDARY SITE AS WF 668 971 BASED ON CO USS HANCOCK LTR 5 OCT 68 AND JCRC ANALYSIS.

=== REPATRIATION ACTIONS OR STATUS CHANGES ===

5 February 1990

ON 31 JULY 1989, THE SRV REPATRIATED THE ALLEGED REMAINS OF DONALD E. ERWIN IN BOX # 11. ON 01 FEBRUARY 1990, THE ARMED FORCES IDENTIFICATION REVIEW BOARD APPROVED THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE REMAINS AS CDR DONALD E. ERWIN. (REF 2)

=== ARCHIVAL RESEARCH INFORMATION ===

5 November 1993

ON 17 DEC 92, THE SRV PROVIDED A DOCUMENT TITLED, "REGISTER OF U.S. LOSSES IN NGHE AN PROVINCE." LINE ENTRY #6 CORRELATES TO REFNO 1296-1-01 BASED ON PILOT'S NAME, DATE OF BIRTH, RANK, SERIAL NUMBER AND DATE AND LOCATION OF LOSS. (REF 3)